



The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.



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VOL. 10, No. 12

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The Trail Blazer

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M. H. A. OFFICERS — 1950

HEBER JAMES BROWN . . . President
CLARENCE SIMONS . . . Vice-President
MABEL SMITH . . . Treasurer
MARY GALE . . . Secretary
6053 Chabot Road, Oakland 18 — OL. 2-2536

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heber James Brown	David Clay Jones
James A. Myers	Clarence A. Simons
Miss Deane Burton	Mrs. Mabel Smith
Harold Cummings	Joe Stern
George S. Daniels	John G. Thiel
Bill Patten	R. M. (Bud) Vogel
Walter Grondona	Mrs. George Walling

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 4, 8:00 p. m.
Gus Himmelman's Clubhouse
3731 Redwood Road

LOCAL HORSEMEN OFFICIATE IN COW PALACE EVENTS

The grand entry committee for both Club Nights at the Cow Palace: Fred Anderson, chairman, George Walling and Jack Richards.

The relay team championship was handled by George Walling, director, Jack Richards, judge, Fred Anderson and Merritt Herrick, timers.

It was a close thing, with the Election Committee counting votes right up to the last minute. Some, regrettably, had to be discarded because of the announced deadline time: votes postmarked after Nov. 28 were not counted.

These are Your Directors for 1951:

Ralph Coffey, President	
George Daniels, Vice-President	
Mabel Smith, Treasurer	
Deane Burton	David Jones
Sidney Chown	Bill Patten
Charles Hall	Joe Stern
Jerald Hansen	Burton Thomas
Gus Himmelman	Bud Vogel
Howard Young	

Familiar names of hard workers vanished from the list of candidates as the new By-Law adopted by the 1950 Directors went into effect. This eliminated all but one candidate who belonged to any one riding club in M.H.A. The slate contained names of newcomers of exceptionally high calibre, who will undoubtedly be in line for appointment in the event that any Director should drop out during the coming year. (Perish the thought—but remember that 1950's Vice-President Charlie Gray resigned because of other duties, and Bill Patten was named to the Board.)

Great credit is due the Election Committee for a good job: James A. Myers, Chairman, Deane Burton, Martin Murray, George Daniels and Heber James Brown.

M. H. A. JUNIOR RELAY TEAM AWARDED THEIR CHINKS

M. H. A.'s Board of Directors voted at their meeting in November to award their chinks to members of the M. H. A. Junior Relay Team, in grateful recognition of their accomplishments. They were Region 5 champions, represented M. H. A. at the State Horse Show in Palm Springs, and brought home the Cow Palace championship in competition with other regional championship teams.

These white chinks, worn by the M. H. A. Juniors in drills, competition, and public appearances, are the property of the organization and were donated by sponsors and friends of the Juniors. In voting the presentation, it was the opinion of the Directors that the Relay Team had worked hard and faithfully and contributed immeasurably to the prestige of the M. H. A. throughout the state.

Members of the Relay Team are: Ronnie Dunniway, Bill Barnard, Bernie Cummings, Ward Gallo and Pat Wirt, with Carol Blanche as alternate.

MABEL SMITH HOSTESS AT BOARD MEETING

How can a home as modern as year-after-next somehow remind you of a wonderful vacation you spent 'way out in Montana, or was it New Mexico? That's the particular charm of the heaven shared by a very feminine Mabel Smith, a very masculine cat and Sugar and Ginger, who inhabit the paddock.

But where were we? Oh, yes. In this setting of solid comfort the Directors made their final reports for 1950 and threshed out their last problems.

Treasury: Mabel Smith reported that total receipts for October from all sources had been \$500.88, with expenses of \$407.62; bank balance as of Nov. 9, 1950, \$613.95. Total accounts receivable, mainly Horse Show and Trail Blazer, \$582.75.

Membership: Harold Cummings and Bill Patten were asked to handle collection of memberships for 1951 at the annual dinner.

Juniors: Kay Walling reported on Junior activities for the year. She was given a vote of thanks for her two years of fine work with the M. H. A. Juniors.

Trail Blazer: Dave Jones reported costs for October as \$164.00 for printing, cuts and mailing, with advertising sales amounting to \$200.25. Advertising Man-

ager John Thiel reported that advertising for November had fallen off considerably. Jones was given authority to take suitable measures to collect outstanding advertising accounts.

Trails and Public Relations were combined in a discussion of various methods to secure rights of way needed to complete the York Trail and the Skyline Boulevard Trail.

Activities: Deane Burton reported on plans for the annual Dinner Dance of December 2.

Harold Cummings told the Board that there would be no cleaning bill for covers used by the Horse Show ring crew—another evidence of the generosity of Harold and his Metropolitan Dry Cleaners.

President Heber Brown thanked the members for their hard work during the year, which he felt had resulted in a successful year for the M. H. A.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments served by Mrs. Smith. Having worked with her through the year, and having seen the dream house she has built, no one was surprised to find Mabel's cake and coffee completely perfect.

In and Out of Hospital . . .

A. B. GRAHAM, former Director and Trails Committee Chairman, has been seriously ill and will not be able to ride for some time—to the great regret of his friends and those two carrot-eaters in Montclair!

SUE EDWARDS, M. H. A. Junior, is happily trotting along the trails again after an appendectomy.

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COMMITTEES REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Activities Committee

Bud Vogel, Chairman
Deane Burton, Assistant
Evelyn Cummings
Mel Cos
Roger Farrar
Joe Merritt

The year's activities for M. H. A. consisted of the Spring Dance in March, the overnight trail ride to Crowe Canyon in May, the Play Day in October, and the annual Dinner Dance in December, all of which contributed goodly amounts to the Treasury (with the exception of Play Day, which was free to all members).

The Committee assisted wherever it could on the other activities of the association: George Daniels Day trail ride and barbecue of May 30 (which was all on George), the Annual Horse Show and Junior Horse Show, and the four Open Meetings of the year.

The crowds of members and friends who appeared at all of these activities testify to the enthusiasm of the membership.

Public Relations

James A. Myers, Chairman
Blanche Paul, Publicity

Relations with the public, the Chamber of Commerce, and with our city, county and state officials have been excellent. We have had splendid cooperation from Fire and Police Departments whenever needed.

Although we may not have received all that we requested, our work with Regional and City Park officials has, we believe, been pleasant and mutually beneficial.

Local horsemen have cooperated wherever possible in civic celebrations and parades.

Local newspapers and radio stations have been most cooperative and helpful in seeing the news value of our horse shows and other activities. Their stories and pictures have stimulated public interest in these events.

Membership Committee

Harold Cummings, Chairman
Bill Patten, Assistant

Stan Cosca	Leon Dahloff
Ray Theobald	Bob Lorimer
George Daniels	Cliff Clark
Mary Gale	Tom Bacon
Blanche Paul	Kay Jones

M. H. A. Juniors:

Carol Cosgriff	Phebe Brown
Corinne Smith	Janet Phillips

Barbara Dorsey

As of November 9, 1950, there were 807 paid-up members in the Association, of which 549 were Seniors and 258 Juniors. This is 107 more members than in 1949, and only 12 less than the all-time high of 819 in 1948.

Of this number, about 235 are new senior members, and 120 new juniors. Much to our regret, we lost some old members through illness, change of residence or business, but it speaks well for the general interest in the Association that so many of our members renew and continue to be active year after year.

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M. H. A. Juniors

Kay Walling, Director
Diane Lombardi, President
Ward Gallo, Drill Team Captain
Bernie Cummings, Vice-President
Corinne Smith, Secretary
Arlene Adams, Treasurer

The M. H. A. Juniors have taken 16 trophies for their work in shows and parades during the past year. The relay team represented Region 5 at the State Horse Show at Palm Springs, and again at the Cow Palace. In competition with both junior and senior teams, they won the Cow Palace championship.

In addition to the drill team work, there have been regular monthly meetings of the Juniors, as well as trail rides, play days, dances and other social events.

For the second year, the Juniors sponsored a successful horse show—this time adding some rodeo events.

Cost of transportation has limited the activities of the junior horsemen to some extent, and a sponsorship which would not involve the use of undignified advertising has been urged. This year, through the cooperation of parents and friends, and the activities of the group, the organization has been mainly self-supporting.

Trails Committee

George Daniels, Chairman
Joe Stern, Assistant

Sidney Chown	James A. Myers
Alicia Coffey	Pete Little
Martin Murray	Mary Lou Hansen
Art Palmer	Heber James Brown
Wesley Adams	

Trail Map: Work is going forward on an over-all trail map covering territory from Tilden Park to Hayward. This is no small task, as real estate maps, Regional and City Park maps and maps of private property are made to different scales.

Work continues on securing property for a trail from Leona Creek through to the York Trail and Skyline Boulevard.

Despite assurances through the years, it was found that no trail has been reserved along Skyline Boulevard, from the Gum Trees to the Crossroads. A trail down the center strip between the two pavements has been proposed, and negotiations are in progress.

The proposal to incorporate the Grass Valley section into the Regional Park System, which would open beautiful trail country, is receiving the support of horsemen's organizations in Region 5.

Repair of gates and present trails is an immediate need.

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HONORED GUESTS AT ANNUAL DINNER

Guest list for the M. H. A. annual dinner dance included city, county and park officials and their ladies. According to President Heber James Brown, invitations were sent to Messrs. Clifford Wixson, Chester E. Stanley, Richard Walpole, James H. Burke.

Raymond E. Pease, Fred Maggiora, Wm. H. D. Clausen, Mrs. Florence I. Fletcher, Douglas C. Sweeney, George A. Janssen, Thomas E. Caldecott, Harry Bartell, H. P. (Jack) Gleason, Fred M. Morcom, Frank J. Youell.

John F. Hassler, Joseph Edward Smith, W. F. Ostrander, Ernest Rossi, J. Vendes Mann, Lyn M. F. Hariss, Wm. Penn Mott, Jr., Capt. Ora Rhodes, Chief Lester Devine and Captain Barbeau.

HORSEMEN MOURNED

It is with real sorrow that we report the untimely death of Mike Feliz. Mike was a staunch supporter of the M. H. A. Juniors and his aid in organizing the group will long be remembered.

He leaves his wife and son, Cotton, a recent graduate of the M. H. A. Juniors, and daughter-in-law Gertrude Potter Feliz.

The death in November of Mrs. George Goldt, old-time member of M. H. A. and known to local horsemen, comes as a shock to her many friends.

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WARD GALLO NAMED "JUNIOR OF THE YEAR"

In an extremely close race, Drill Team Captain Ward Gallo was named Junior of the Year. The announcement and presentation of award was made at the annual Dinner Dance of December 2.

Ten M. H. A. Juniors were nominated for the "Junior of the Year" title at the November meeting of the Juniors. Subsequently, cards with names of the candidates were sent to all M. H. A. Juniors, so that all could participate in the voting.

The award, made by Sheldon Potter of the Visalia Stock Saddle Co., was a Visalia Humane bit and headstall.

Candidates were: Bill Barnard, Phebe Brown, Rosalie Cox, Bernie Cummings, Ronnie Dunniway, Ward Gallo, Barbara Isham, Diane Lombardi, Janet Phillips and Corinne Smith.

M. H. A. JUNIOR MEETINGS

Rosalie Cox invited the Juniors to hold their November meeting at her home—and it was voted one of the best of the year. The business meeting was followed by delicious food, and then moving pictures. All thanks to Rosalie and Mr. and Mrs. Cox.

The December 9th meeting is scheduled to be held at the Himmelman's clubhouse, 3731 Redwood Road.

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POSSE ELECTION

Officers of Alameda Co. Sheriff's Posse for the coming year have been named as follows: Captain, James A. Myers; First Lieutenant, Willis Pray; Second Lieutenants, Joe Cosca and Roger Farrar.

The Posse's final exhibition drill of the season was presented at Camp Stoneman on November 12, led by Capt. Myers. It was a beautiful performance.

To the cry of "Hi-Ho Silverplate!" from the enthusiastic military audience, Past Captain Palmer accepted Camp Stoneman's parade trophy.

LARI-ETTES

The Palm Springs Convention parade brought the Lari-ettes Mayor Charlie Farrell's trophy for best women's mounted unit—the third consecutive year that the group has won this distinction.

The lovely parade at Camp Stoneman on Nov. 12 was a grand finale to a most satisfactory year. Ruby Welch on Ribbon was awarded first prize as best dressed cowgirl, and third prize in Western Pleasure class at the Camp Stoneman show.

Recent unreported winners: Marianne Pendo on Wildfire placed third in trails

class at Charlie Hall's show at Miss Graham's Redwood Stables; Nancy York on Cotton placed second in palomino class at the Castro Valley Wranglers show; Norma Burton on Idiot's Delight placed first in hunter class at both the Auburn and Vallejo shows; Norma also placed first on Elsa Himmelman's Monte Carlo in the trails class at Auburn. At the Cow Palace, Norma won second on O'Malley in the hunter class, and rode Monte Carlo to first place in a very large trails class. Thus ended a banner year.

AAHMES MOUNTED PATROL

The Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol is happy to welcome Dick Weske into its membership. Dick has bought Archie Brown's pinto, Lady.

The drill team made four appearances at the Cow Palace. During the show, they were hosts at a luncheon for the Rock 'N' Ride riders of El Cajon.

The Armistice Day parade in Oakland brought the unit first place among mounted groups, and first in fraternal groups.

An exhibition drill was presented following the parade at Camp Stoneman last month. During the show, pairs class was won by Captain Floyd Jacobs' Pedro and Henry Gede's Serenade, ridden by Si Simons. Serenade also placed fifth in pleasure class, among some 74 entries. In pairs, Hank Zaban on King and Joe Young on Mucho Grande placed third.

Jerry Jacobs has suffered the loss of his fine registered pinto, Con Valley Twerp.

The group was recently entertained at breakfast by Fred and Laura Bemis: they called it breakfast, but their gracious hospitality turned it into a memorable day.

Vern Chappell

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PIEDMONT STABLES

Dr. Galen Drury was recently host to the members and friends of the Oakland Police Dept. Mounted Division at his home in Piedmont. Among those present were Chief of Police Lester Divine, Vice-Mayor Pease and Sergeant Guy Skelton. Guests enjoyed an excellent barbecued chicken dinner.

Charlie Hagamen, who stables his nice mare, Susan, at the Piedmont, has gone to Salt Lake City for a while. He'll be greatly missed on the trails.

We regret to report that George Bennett was in an accident in Paso Robles. His injuries are serious enough to keep him off his horse for several months.

Among the Piedmont boarders who enjoyed the Cow Palace show and rodeo were Harold Knudsen, Ed Gallagher, Mitch and Mabel Robbins, Jack Sherburne, Russ Ivy and Dr. and Mrs. Denny.

Russ Ivy reports that he'll soon be riding again, after an illness that has kept him off the trails for several months. We'll all welcome you back, Russ!

CRESSMOUNT SCHOOLING SHOW

A series of schooling shows are being planned for the next few months, in the Umbrella Ring. It is an opportunity to show a green horse in the ring, and all riders are welcome.

There will be classes for hunters, jumpers, trail and stock horses, equitation classes, relay and quadrangle races, and other events for which there may be a request.

First show will be held December 10. Additional details may be obtained from Miss Cornelia Cress.

NEVES STABLE

Boarders and guests are still talking about the dinner and show held last October 16. Mrs. Greta Neves prepared wonderful food, after which there was a show in the ring. Lea Buck made the ribbons and planned the program, aided by Phebe Brown, Louise Bolby and Janet Phillips.

New boarders: Joyce Adamson's chestnut gelding, Sundown, and Jo McCarthy's little Arab mare, Nicotine.

PINTO RANCH

Congratulations to Pat Wirt, who rode with the M. H. A. Juniors in the relay races at the Cow Palace!

That beautiful palomino filly of Ethel Albert's looks more like its mother every day—it's the family's pride and joy.

Mrs. White and the Browns were some of the many who worked hard in preparation for the Camp Stoneman show of last month, getting their horses in top shape.

Pinto Ranch is welcoming these new boarders: Paul Wooten's chestnut horse, Earl Wilson's nice brown trail horse, Bill George's new pinto, Dillinger, and horses of Mr. Allen, Robert Russel and Bill Gertz.

Tom Tallarico's new palomino is a horse worth watching at future shows; Frank Grass owns a new stock horse, a bay quarter type mare.

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RIDING ACADEMY

The Rainbow Riders, a new drill team of girls under 16, has been organized and expects to show next season. They own and care for their own horses. Captain is Willa Claussen, Co-Captain Joyce Bryton, Secretary Dorothy Moore, Director, Tiny Capriola.

Cow Palace winners: Norman Emrick, a blue; John Emrick third in parade class; Sue Boomer a ribbon in Jr. Equitation.

Other winners: At Pittsburg, a first to Mrs. Jessie Robertson of Richmond with her palomino mare; at the Contra Costa Rangers' show in Pinole: Mrs. Marcelle Weeks a second, John Capriola a third.

Bob Ott, President of Contra Costa Jr. College, led a football parade in Napa on Nov. 11. Miss Draper and Dorain Thurlin were color-bearers.

Penny Boone expects to show her own horse next year. At the Oakland Thanksgiving Day parade, Penny was Cinderella; Eleanore and Carolyn Gleason also participated; The Prince's coach was drawn by a Shetland pony driven by Tiny Capriola.

Play Day was Oct. 15, with lots of fun and ribbons.

Coming: Contra Costa J. C. plans to present a horse show in our ring in January.

San Pablo Horsemen will meet the second Friday of each month, for the winter.

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Your M. H. A. Junior would prize one!

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

New Senior

Dale Harris

New Juniors

Pete Palmer
Susan Palmer

David Dye
Carol Schumaker

SECRETARY MARY GALE SAYS "THANK YOU"

"I do want to thank the members for their fine support in helping to keep the mailing list in good shape," says Mary.

All too frequently, members overlook sending in a change of address, and the change is eventually reported by a friend. Sometimes, too, people miss their mail and magazines because they overlook renewing their memberships. If we've missed someone you know, will you keep up the good work and keep us informed?

Lucille Simons Injured

LUCILLE SIMONS, former Director and wife of Vice-President Si Simons, suffered injuries in an automobile accident just before Thanksgiving. She is reluctantly putting in time at Merritt Hospital.

DAVE JONES, Trail Blazer boss man, was also hospitalized a few days for a bit of embroidery on the right arm.

**Renew Your Membership in M. H. A.
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Belated Thanksgiving

We're thankful to Cliff Barbera of Colbourn's for Trail Blazer cover pictures and the cheery, willing way he went about getting them. . . It added up to a lot of time and expense during the year, we know.

We're grateful, too, to Alicia Coffey for her amazing ability to get things done, and to Georgia Schneider for her cartoons.

We're more than grateful to Director and Advertising Manager John Thiel, without whom we couldn't have put out the magazine at all. His devotion to the advertisers' interests, his systematic record-keeping, his immense respect for deadlines and his gay good nature all helped lighten the chore.

We're herewith saying "thank you" to Mel Coe, Danny Danielson, J. Howard Robinson, Mary Gale, Buck Wilkinson and all the Directors, all of whom have helped get advertising during the year.

And to our advertisers, bless 'em all. . . our thanks, and our plea that the membership continue to support them, as their ads have supported the magazine.

Our staff of reporters has been far above average. Special credit to Barbara Albert, Bea McKechnie (the Roving Reporter), Emmet Boger and Mary Gale, because they almost never missed an issue. Thanks, too, to Tiny Capriola of the Arlington, who covered the Berkeley-to-San Pablo area, often at the expense of her own stable. . . and to the Pattens of the Piedmont.

Among the nicest things an Editor could find in the mail were the notes and pictures from M. H. A. members, and we're grateful for every one of them. . .

Former Editor Blanche Paul was a staunch supporter with a wealth of information always on tap—thank you, Blanche.

Our printer, Jack Jaques of West Coast, has saved us money, time and many a headache. . . Our engraver, Printing Plates, has done good work, frequently with highly peculiar copy! We're greatly indebted to them both.

Our Treasurer, Mabel Smith, quickly found her way into our councils of war—and our hearts, with her good advice and willing aid.

We're particularly grateful to President Heber James Brown, who has sometimes made suggestions but never cracked the whip. . . whose method has been: "give people a job, turn them loose and back them up. His good judgment, good will and impudent chuckle often moved mountains, and we never asked for help without getting it.

Lastly, we're grateful to our boss, Dave Jones, who did much of the leg work all year, took the blame when things went wrong, and passed along the credit. He saved us many a boner, read many a page of proof. . . but we never could get him to cook the dinner while we wrote the magazine!

And to all our readers, who must indeed be the kindest and most forbearing people in the world, our very handsomest silver-mounted "Thank You."

—Katherine L. Jones

CLEARING HOUSE FOR HORSE SHOW DATES

On a state-wide basis, the State Horsemen's magazine lists the larger horse shows as soon as the dates are set. So does the State Chamber of Commerce. But a similar registry of local dates and events—if possible, in all of Region 5—could be a real help in eliminating conflicting dates and assuring each show full classes and a large attendance.

With the best will in the world, local stables and riding clubs try not to compete in the matter of dates. As a result, they are often unable to set their dates far enough in advance to give their shows good publicity.

Perhaps listing the dates early in the year, with the M. H. A. Secretary's office, and publication in the Trail Blazer, would help for our local events. But can anything be done on a regional basis?

Any comment, Region 5 Vice-President George Walling? Any suggestions, clubs and stables?

CUSTODIAN PROPOSED

How much equipment of various kinds has been purchased by the M. H. A.? Where is it, and what is its condition? These are questions that are asked frequently, and answered all too vaguely.

At several recent meetings of Directors the problem of taking inventory and arranging for adequate storage, as well as a record of "who has what, and where?" has been discussed. The solution: a Custodian, preferably a member of the Board of Directors, to be appointed each year, who will be responsible for the care and maintenance of this equipment. This ranges now from trail ride movie film to rope for temporary corrals.

If you know of any M. H. A. property, will you see that the new M. H. A. President is notified?

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Merry Christmas!